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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/620,126

07/15/2003

Stefan Kruck

3201-337 (D4700-00350)

7848

8933

7590

06/02/2006

DUANE MORRIS, LLP  
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EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/620,126

Applicant(s)

KRUCK, STEFAN

Examiner

Aaron M. Dunwoody

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 496363, Kreider.

In regards to claim 1, Kreider discloses a plug-in connector comprising:

a plug-in bushing (1) associated with the plumbing fixture;

an undercut (4) associated with the plug-in bushing;

a flange (7) having a non-circular shaped perimeter, the flange being attachable to a line near an end of the line, wherein the line is connected to the plumbing fixture by inserting the line with the flange thereon into the plug-in bushing beyond the undercut, and engaging the flange with the undercut by rotating the flange to a position at which part of the non-circular shaped perimeter of the flange is longitudinally beyond the undercut; and

wherein the undercut and the flange are shaped and sized such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together when the line is rotated to said position.

In regards to claim 2, Kreider discloses the undercut being configured such that the line, along with the flange, may be rotated to the extent that withdrawal of the line

from the plug-in bushing will be prevented by engagement of the flange with the undercut.

In regards to claim 4, Kreider discloses the flange being configured such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together by transverse force when the line is rotated to said position.

In regards to claim 5, Kreider discloses the undercut and the flange jointly forming a bayonet connector when the line is rotated.

In regards to claim 6, Kreider discloses the undercut being formed on one side of the plug-in bushing only.

In regards to claim 7, Kreider discloses the undercut being formed around the end of the line.

In regards to claim 8, Kreider discloses the undercut being at least partially formed ahead of the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 9, Kreider discloses the plumbing fixture having a housing and the plug-in bushing being formed in an adapter element, situated between a mixer cartridge and the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 10, Kreider discloses the plumbing fixture having a housing and the undercut being formed in the housing of a plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 11, Kreider discloses the undercut being formed in the adapter element.

In regards to claim 12, Kreider discloses ends of the undercut in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 13, Kreider discloses ends of the plug-in bushing in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 14, Kreider discloses the flange being located at a distance from the free end of the line.

In regards to claim 15, Kreider discloses an axial force acting on the flange forcing the flange up against the undercut in order to clamp the end of the line having the flange in the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 16, Kreider discloses an elastic element being provided in order to exert the axial force acting on the flange.

In regards to claim 17, Kreider discloses the elastic element being formed by an O-Ring.

Claims 1, 2, 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 1564965, Kraft.

In regards to claim 1, Kraft discloses a plug-in connector comprising:  
a plug-in bushing (E) associated with the plumbing fixture;  
an undercut (H) associated with the plug-in bushing;

a flange (I) having a non-circular shaped perimeter, the flange being attachable to a line near an end of the line, wherein the line is connected to the plumbing fixture by inserting the line with the flange thereon into the plug-in bushing beyond the undercut, and engaging the flange with the undercut by rotating the flange to a position at which part of the non-circular shaped perimeter of the flange is longitudinally beyond the undercut; and

wherein the undercut and the flange are shaped and sized such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together when the line is rotated to said position.

In regards to claim 2, Kraft discloses the undercut being configured such that the line, along with the flange, may be rotated to the extent that withdrawal of the line from the plug-in bushing will be prevented by engagement of the flange with the undercut.

In regards to claim 4, Kraft discloses the flange being configured such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together by transverse force when the line is rotated to said position.

In regards to claim 5, Kraft discloses the undercut and the flange jointly forming a bayonet connector when the line is rotated.

In regards to claim 6, Kraft discloses the undercut being formed on one side of the plug-in bushing only.

In regards to claim 7, Kraft discloses the undercut being formed around the end of the line.

In regards to claim 8, Kraft discloses the undercut being at least partially formed ahead of the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 9, Kraft discloses the plumbing fixture having a housing and the plug-in bushing being formed in an adapter element, situated between a mixer cartridge and the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 10, Kraft discloses the plumbing fixture having a housing and the undercut being formed in the housing of a plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 11, Kraft discloses the undercut being formed in the adapter element.

In regards to claim 12, Kraft discloses ends of the undercut in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 13, Kraft discloses ends of the plug-in bushing in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 14, Kraft discloses the flange being located at a distance from the free end of the line.

In regards to claim 15, Kraft discloses an axial force acting on the flange forcing the flange up against the undercut in order to clamp the end of the line having the flange in the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 16, Kraft discloses an elastic element being provided in order to exert the axial force acting on the flange.

In regards to claim 17, Kraft discloses the elastic element being formed by an O-Ring.

Claims 1, 2, 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 516481, Emerson.

In regards to claim 1, Emerson discloses a plug-in connector comprising:

a plug-in bushing (B) associated with the plumbing fixture;

an undercut (g) associated with the plug-in bushing;

a flange (P) having a non-circular shaped perimeter, the flange being attachable to a line near an end of the line, wherein the line is connected to the plumbing fixture by inserting the line with the flange thereon into the plug-in bushing beyond the undercut, and engaging the flange with the undercut by rotating the flange to a position at which part of the non-circular shaped perimeter of the flange is longitudinally beyond the undercut; and

wherein the undercut and the flange are shaped and sized such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together when the line is rotated to said position.

In regards to claim 2, Emerson discloses the undercut being configured such that the line, along with the flange, may be rotated to the extent that withdrawal of the line from the plug-in bushing will be prevented by engagement of the flange with the undercut.

In regards to claim 4, Emerson discloses the flange being configured such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together by transverse force when the line is rotated to said position.



In regards to claim 5, Emerson discloses the undercut and the flange jointly forming a bayonet connector when the line is rotated.

In regards to claim 6, Emerson discloses the undercut being formed on one side of the plug-in bushing only.

In regards to claim 7, Emerson discloses the undercut being formed around the end of the line.

In regards to claim 8, Emerson discloses the undercut being at least partially formed ahead of the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 9, Emerson discloses the plumbing fixture having a housing and the plug-in bushing being formed in an adapter element, situated between a mixer cartridge and the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 10, Emerson discloses the plumbing fixture having a housing and the undercut being formed in the housing of a plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 11, Emerson discloses the undercut being formed in the adapter element.

In regards to claim 12, Emerson discloses ends of the undercut in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 13, Emerson discloses ends of the plug-in bushing in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 14, Emerson discloses the flange being located at a distance from the free end of the line.

In regards to claim 15, Emerson discloses an axial force acting on the flange forcing the flange up against the undercut in order to clamp the end of the line having the flange in the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 16, Emerson discloses an elastic element being provided in order to exert the axial force acting on the flange.

In regards to claim 17, Emerson discloses the elastic element being formed by an O-Ring.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6450552, Pulmanns et al.

In regards to claim 1, Pulmanns et al disclose a plug-in connector comprising:  
a plug-in bushing (1) associated with the plumbing fixture;  
an undercut (42) associated with the plug-in bushing;  
a flange (16) having a non-circular shaped perimeter, the flange being attachable to a line near an end of the line, wherein the line is connected to the plumbing fixture by inserting the line with the flange thereon into the plug-in bushing beyond the undercut, and engaging the flange with the undercut by rotating the flange to a position at which

part of the non-circular shaped perimeter of the flange is longitudinally beyond the undercut; and

wherein the undercut and the flange are shaped and sized such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together when the line is rotated to said position.

In regards to claim 2, Pulmanns et al disclose the undercut being configured such that the line, along with the flange, may be rotated to the extent that withdrawal of the line from the plug-in bushing will be prevented by engagement of the flange with the undercut.

In regards to claim 4, Pulmanns et al disclose the flange being configured such that the undercut and flange will be wedged together by transverse force when the line is rotated to said position.

In regards to claim 5, Pulmanns et al disclose the undercut and the flange jointly forming a bayonet connector when the line is rotated.

In regards to claim 6, Pulmanns et al disclose the undercut being formed on one side of the plug-in bushing only.

In regards to claim 7, Pulmanns et al disclose the undercut being formed around the end of the line.

In regards to claim 8, Pulmanns et al disclose the undercut being at least partially formed ahead of the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 9, Pulmanns et al disclose the plumbing fixture having a housing and the plug-in bushing being formed in an adapter element, situated between a mixer cartridge and the housing of the plumbing fixture.

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In regards to claim 10, Pulmanns et al disclose the plumbing fixture having a housing and the undercut being formed in the housing of a plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 11, Pulmanns et al disclose the undercut being formed in the adapter element.

In regards to claim 12, Pulmanns et al disclose ends of the undercut in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 13, Pulmanns et al disclose ends of the plug-in bushing in the adapter element being open and may be closed by inserting the adapter into the housing of the plumbing fixture.

In regards to claim 14, Pulmanns et al disclose the flange being located at a distance from the free end of the line.

In regards to claim 15, Pulmanns et al disclose an axial force acting on the flange forcing the flange up against the undercut in order to clamp the end of the line having the flange in the plug-in bushing.

In regards to claim 16, Pulmanns et al disclose an elastic element being provided in order to exert the axial force acting on the flange.

In regards to claim 17, Pulmanns et al discloses the elastic element being formed by an O-Ring.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

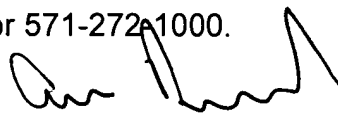
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Aaron M Dunwoody  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679

.amd